



By the King.

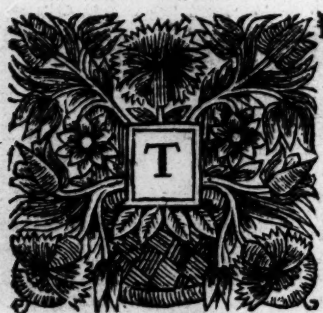
A P R O C L A M A T I O N

F O R

A Generall F A S T

Throughout the Realm of *England*.

CHARLES R.



The Kings most Excellent Majesty having not had any the least satisfaction (although often demanded) from the States of the United Provinces, for several Injuries done to Himself and His people; but on the contrary is advertised of their great Preparations for War, and that they are resolved what they have done by Wrong, to maintain by Arms. And His Majesty being thereby forced for the just Defence and Vindication of the Rights of Himself and His Subjects, to prepare and set out Naval Forces; and being moved by the humble desire of both Houses of Lords and Commons lately Assembled in Parliament, and out of His Religious Disposition readily inclined, hath Resolved, and doth hereby Command a General and Publick Fast to be kept through this whole Kingdom, in such manner as is hereafter directed and prescribed; that so both Prince and People may send up their Prayers and Supplications to Almighty God, for imploring His Blessing on His Majesties Forces imployed in this present Expedition. And for the more decent and uniform performance

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thereof, His Majesty doth hereby publish and declare to all His loving Subjects, and doth straightly charge and command, That on Wednesday the fifth of April next, this Fast be Religiously and solemnly observed and kept throughout this whole Realm of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweede.

And for the more orderly solemnizing thereof, His Majesty hath directed to be Composed, Printed and Published (by and with the advice of His Reverend Bishops) a Form of Prayers to be used in all Churches and Places at these Publick Meetings; and hath given charge to the Bishops for the dispersing thereof throughout their severall Dioceses in the whole Kingdom. And His Majesty doth expressly charge and command, That the said Fasting and Prayers be Soberly, Reverently, and Decently performed by all His loving Subjects, as they tender the favour of Almighty God, and upon pain of such punishments as His Majesty can justly inflict upon all such as shall contemn, or neglect so Religious a Work.

Given at Our Court at *Whitehall* the Sixth day of *March*, in the Seventeenth year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

L O N D O N,

Printed by *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1664.